

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated February 13, 2006 in which the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and objected to claims 2-17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowance if rewritten in independent.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice and claims 2-5 have been rewritten into independent form. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and withdraws the object to claims 2-17.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner enter this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: May 12, 2006

By: 

Ellen Marcie Enas
Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620